

REMARKS

Claims 5-12, 18-22, 29-53 and 59-63 are currently pending with claims 5, 10, 18, 29 and 34 being independent. Claims 5, 10, 18, 29 and 34 have been amended. Support for the amendments may be found in the published application at, for example, FIG. 1 and paragraphs [0039]-[0042]. No new matter has been introduced.

Initially, applicants thank Examiner Kumar for the personal interview granted to the undersigned on April 24, 2009. The present amendments are those discussed at the interview and the substance of the interview is set forth below.

Claims 5, 7-10, 12, 18-20, 22, 29-31, 33-37, 39-53 and 59-63 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Kim (U.S. Patent No. 6,265,833) in view of Ikeda (U.S. Patent No. 5,714,969), Yamaguchi (U.S. Patent No. 6,853,083) and Young (U.S. Patent No. 5,075,596). Dependent claims 6, 11, 21, 32 and 38 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Kim in view of Ikeda, Yamaguchi, Young and Poulton (U.S. Patent No. 5,702,323).

With respect to claim 5 and its dependent claims, applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections because, as the Examiner agreed at the interview, neither Kim, Ikeda, Yamaguchi, Young, Poulton nor any proper combination of the five describes or suggests "a voltage changer connected to receive the correction signal and an output of the EL driving power source, and configured to produce an output potential that varies based on the correction signal," where "the output potential of the voltage changer is electrically connected to the second electrode of the EL element via a switch," as recited in claim 5.

The rejection acknowledges that Kim does not disclose a voltage changer configured and connected in the manner set forth in claim 5, and relies on Ikeda, and particularly the resistor 34 of Ikeda, as showing the recited voltage changer. However, as discussed at the interview, since the resistor 34 is a two-terminal device, the resistor 34 cannot be said to be connected to receive a correction signal and an output of the EL driving power source.

Nor can the resistor 34 be said to produce an output potential that varies based on the correction signal. For example, starting at col. 9, line 33, Ikeda notes that the current flowing

through resistor 34 has a constant value of $2 \times I$, which means that the potential drop across the resistor is a constant $2 \times I \times R$.

Nor can the output potential of the resistor 34 be said to be electrically connected to the second electrode of the EL element via a switch. With reference to FIG. 10 of Ikeda, the bottom electrode of the EL element 21 would need to correspond to the recited second electrode since the top electrode of the EL element 21 is connected to the constant current circuit 25, which most closely corresponds to the recited power supply line. However, while the rejection indicates that the transistor 22 of Ikeda corresponds to the recited switch, there is no path between the resistor 34 and the bottom electrode of the EL element 21 that passes through the transistor 22. Rather, the resistor 34 is directly connected to the bottom electrode of the EL element 21.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, the rejections of claim 5 and its dependent claims should be withdrawn.

Similarly to claim 5, independent claim 10 recites “a voltage changer connected to receive an information signal of an environment and an output of the EL driving power source, and to produce an output potential electrically connected to the other of said two electrodes of said EL element via a switch, wherein the voltage changer is configured to vary the output potential based on the information signal”; independent claim 18 recites “a voltage changer connected to receive an output of an EL driving power source and a corrected potential generated by converting the information signal, and to generate an output potential that varies based on the corrected potential,” where “the output potential of the voltage changer is electrically connected to the other of the anode and the cathode of said EL element via a switch”; independent claim 29 recites “a voltage changer connected to receive the information signal and an output of an EL driving power source, and to generate an output potential that varies based on the information signal;” where “the output potential of the voltage changer is electrically connected to the other of the anode and the cathode of said EL element via a switch”; and independent claim 34 recites “a voltage changer connected to receive the corrected signal and an output of an EL driving power source, and configured to produce an output potential that varies based on the corrected signal;” where “the output potential of the voltage changer is electrically connected to the other

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of the anode and the cathode of said EL element via a switch." Accordingly, the rejections of independent claims 10, 18, 29 and 34, and their dependent claims, should be withdrawn for reasons similar to those discussed above with respect to claim 5.

Applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance.

No fee is believed to be due. Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 5/19/09


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